

QUAINT CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Cupid Plays Part in Many of the Superstitions That Are Still Given Consideration.

Good St. Thomas, serve me right
And send me my true love tonight,
That I may gaze upon his face,
Then him in my fond arms embrace.

AFTER placing a piece of holly under her pillow, many a girl, in the north of England especially, repeats these lines to herself before retiring to rest on Christmas eve, according to a writer in London Tit-Bits.

Cupid plays an important part in many of the superstitions and customs that are still extant at this season.

A Christmas practice among superstitious girls who wish to dream about their future lovers is that of abstaining from food or drink or speech during the whole of Christmas eve. Then, after all the family have retired, they make a cake of flour, salt and water, called a "dumb cake." This they eat just before retiring to bed, in the belief that their somewhat indigestible supper will cause them to dream of their future husbands.

In the Alps there exist several charming Yuletide customs of proposing marriage by the language of flowers. If a girl accepts a bouquet of edelweiss from a man during the period from Christmas day to New Year's eve the action denotes that she accepts him as her future husband.

Another Christmas custom in Switzerland is for the young man to place a flower pot, containing a single rose, and a note on the window sill of the girl's room when she is absent from home. He then waits for a reply. If the maid accepts the flower before New Year's eve, then the young man boldly enters the house to "ask papa." If, on the other hand, the rose is not touched, but is allowed to fade away, the proposal is rejected without a single word of love having been exchanged between the couple.

In Sardinia Christmas wooing is far more complicated. If a Sardinian father has a marriageable daughter, the would-be suitor applies to him for permission to speak to her by means of a species of telephone that has been in use for the purpose for centuries of Christmas.

It is a long string with a wooden knob at each end. The girl drops one knob out of her window and the shutters being closed, places the other knob to her ear. "Down below her would-be lover pours words of undying devotion into his knob!"

On every New Year's day in Rumania a fair of marriageable girls is held. The girls are all drawn up in one line and the men in another, with the parents of both behind them. If a young man likes the looks of any particular girl he steps out of his line, goes up to her and enters into conversation. If he is favorably received by the girl, his parents and her parents compare notes as to the marriage settlement and similar practical matters.

Many quaint superstitions are associated with the festive season in various parts of Britain. In Hertfordshire the wearing of new shoes on Christmas day is considered to be very unlucky.

THE PATCHWORK QUILT

IT WAS such a sunny December day that Marian could sit on the porch and do her Christmas sewing. This quilt was to surprise her grandmother, for old folks don't expect presents at any time of the year, least of all do they look for such a fine thing as Marian was preparing. It was gay with shreds and patches from many an old dress and the stitches were as neatly and closely put in as any dressmaker could have wished. Besides, upon every patch there was worked the name of someone whom the old lady loved. This required a good many patches and made quite a large quilt, but the child had worked long and patiently.

She was happily repaid for all her busy care when she saw a happy tear roll down Grandma's cheek as the lovely gift was unfolded, and heard her say: "Now I shall not feel so lonely at night, and what pleasant dreams I shall have, with all my friends around me."—C. G. Hazard.

(© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

SHOPPING.

Here's a truth that's pure and pearly,
Fresher than the morning dew;
Do your shopping bright and early—
Do it early and get through!

A Gift Suggestion.

A pretty little Christmas gift is a towel holder, made in the same way as the elastic. Make two strips of the band, one a little longer than the other, and wind ribbon of the same shade on two large embroidered hoops and one small one. Join to the bands, small one at the top and large ones on the bottom. Run white ribbon through the bands and finish with bows at the top of hoops. This is also nice as a tie rack or hair ribbon holder.

C. G. Abbott, scientist, believes that communication by wireless with Venus is possible, but expensive.

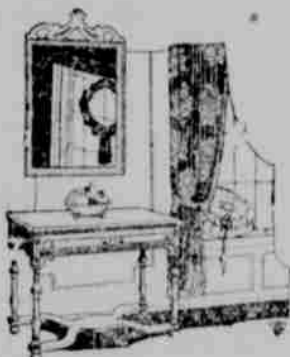
Buy of Record Advertisers and save money—advertisement.



Gift Suggestions

Here are a few gift suggestions from this city's headquarters for that most pleasing and lasting of gifts—good furniture! Prices here have dropped to levels that are fully half what prices were at the peak, so you can buy now, confident that prices are down to bedrock. Here are a few specials that will reward early shoppers.

Mirrors in Polychrome Finishes



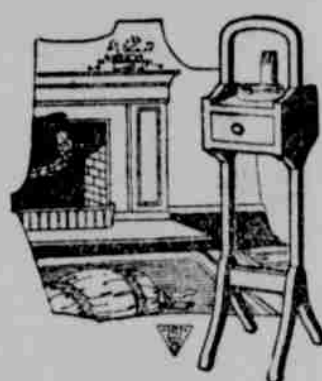
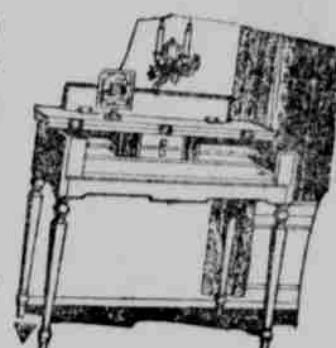
No woman can pass by a mirror without stopping to look into it. And you won't be able to pass these by without buying at least one when you see the values you are getting.

Ladies' Desks

A wonderful Christmas gift! In golden, fumed oak and mahogany with a drawer and compartment for writing materials as pictured. Extra special at **\$15.00**

"Right" up to the Minute

A Spinet Desk has all the little conveniences that modern demands have made upon it. Many cubby holes, many drawers and very graceful may describe it briefly, but to fully appreciate it you must see it. Priced **\$42.00**



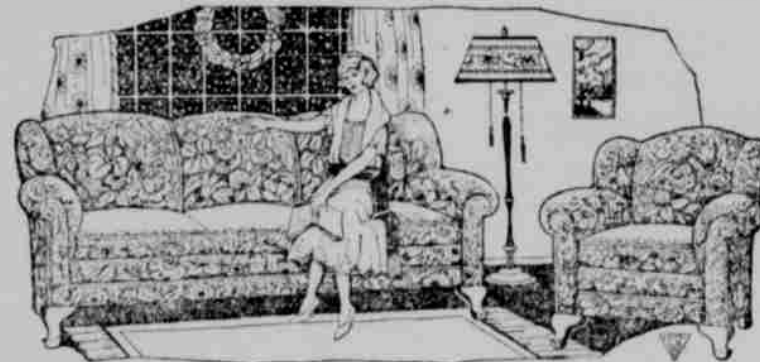
Smokers

Of the many smoking outfits, we are certain one from our showing will suit



An End Table

Is an inexpensive and most useful gift.



Overstuffed Suite

Here is a gift that will add to the luxury and comfort of any home and it is something you can give with but a small payment down in cash and unusually convenient credit terms for the balance.

A Pair of Candle Sticks

Yet so old and yet so new are candle sticks; they're used in every room. How inviting a dining room table looks beneath the soft glowing candle light, pair



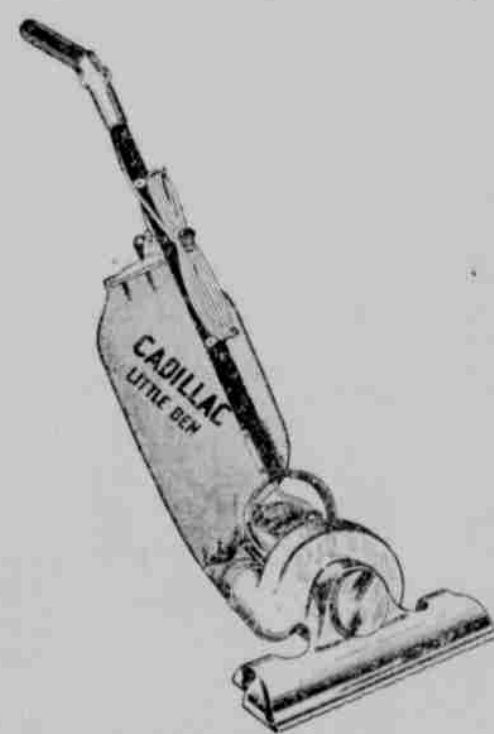
\$1.50

A Traveling Bag is a fine gift for any member of the family.

Save Her Back

with a CADILLAC Electric Vacuum Cleaner

It gets all the dirt and not the nap.



GET HER A HOOSIER



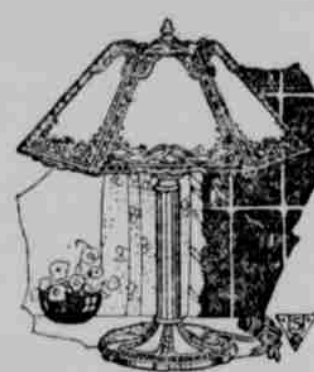
Child's Rocker

Just the thing for her to sit in and rock her Christmas dolly to sleep! By a fortunate purchase, we are able to offer these attractive rockers at a

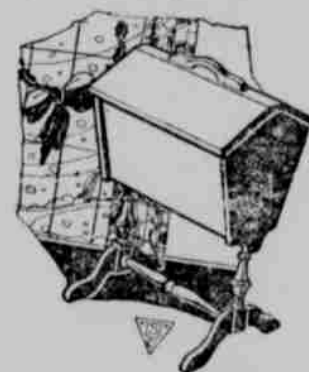
Special Price

The Wonderful Meteor
Greatest Phonograph Value on the Market Today

Come in and let us give you a demonstration and be convinced. With a small payment down we will deliver one to your home for Christmas.

Polychrome Lamps
\$13.00 and up

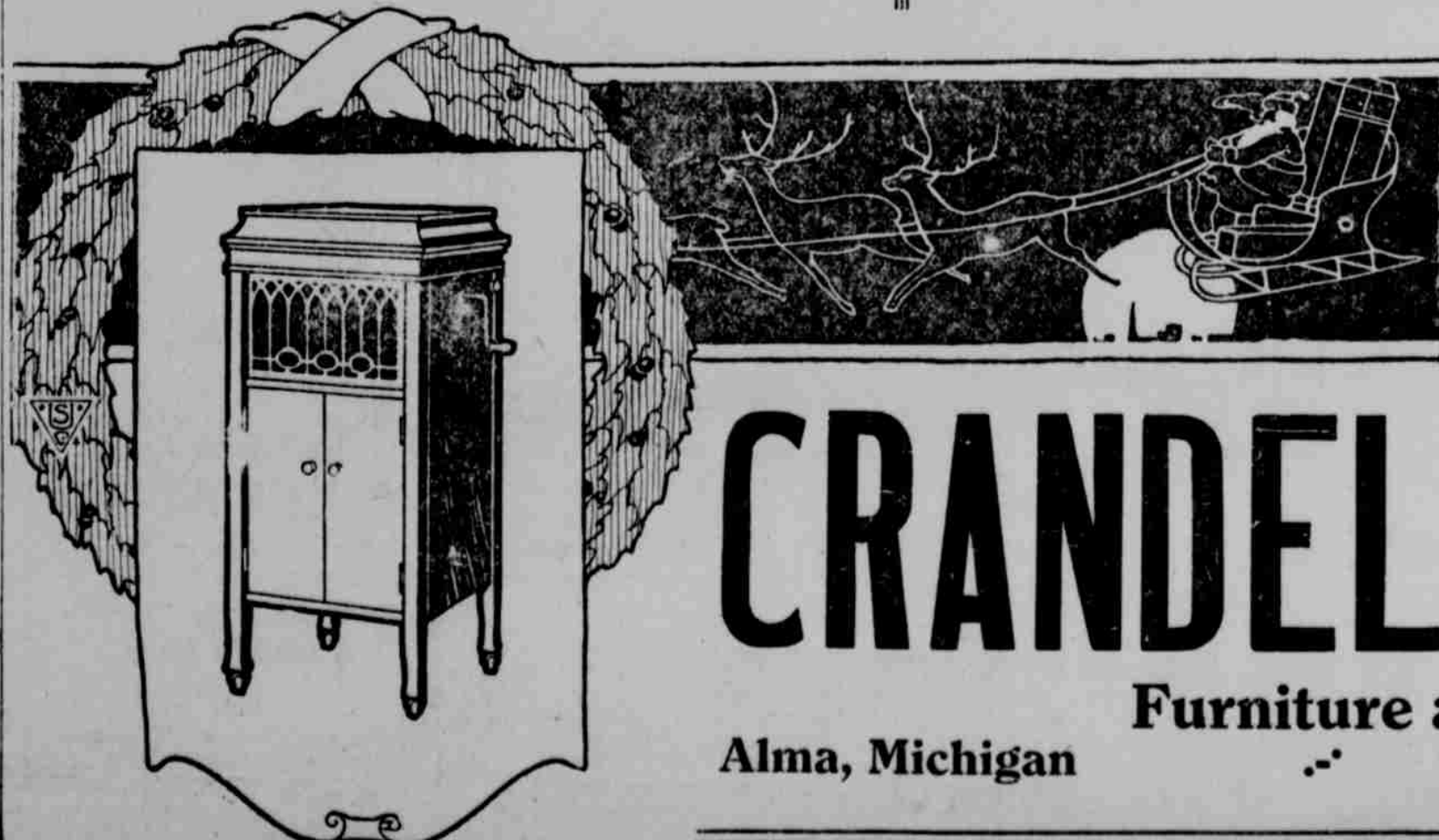
The very latest thing in Metal Lamp with glass shade in the new Polychrome finishes. We are also showing a new line of wood bases, complete with beautiful silk shades in a variety of designs and colorings.



Priscilla Cabinets

Artistic mahogany finished sewing cabinets in the popular Priscilla style with handy tray and two top doors—a convenient, practical gift for any woman. Only \$10.00

Quality the Only Economy That Involves No Sacrifice



CRANDELL & SCOTT

Furniture and Undertaking

Alma, Michigan

Alma, Michigan

The many demands of the Christmas season stretch the pocketbook to its fullest extent. We will be glad to lay anything aside with a small payment at the time of the purchase and the balance can be paid after the new year.